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- (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES [IN/IN]; Division of Clinical Microbiology, Dept of Laboratory Medicine, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 110 029 (IN). DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY [IN/IN]; Ministry of Science & Technology, Block-2, (7th Floor), CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003 (IN).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SINGH, Sarman [IN/IN]; All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Division of Clinical Microbiology, Dept of Laboratory Medicine, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 110 029 (IN). SIVAKUMAR, Ramu [IN/IN]; All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Division of Clinical Microbiology, Dept of Laboratory Medicine, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 110 029 (IN).
- (74) Agents: LAKSHMIKUMARAN, Varadhachari et al.; B4/158, Safdarjung Encalve, New Delhi 110 029 (IN).
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(54) Title: POLYPEPTIDES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF LEISHMANIASIS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides compounds and methods for the detection of anti-leishmanial antibodies in individuals suspected of infection with the protozoan parasite of the genus *Leishmania*, where the infectious agent is an Indian strain and similar or closely related to Indian *Leishmania* strains. The compounds provided include polypeptides as shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6 which are useful for the detection of anti-leishmanial antibodies in individuals where the immune responses are elicited against *Leishmania* species of Indian strains and similar or closely related to Indian *Leishmania* strains, the compounds are also useful as a vaccine and therapeutic agent to prevent and treat leishmaniasis. The present invention further provides a diagnostic kit consisting of antibody raised against polypeptides as shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6 for detecting leishmanial antigens.



